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SANITARY LEGISLATION.

STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

IOWA.

Sewage and Garbage—Disposal of (Regulations State Board of Health, adopted July 21, 1911).

RULE VI, SECTION 1. No privy vault, cesspool, or reservoir into which a privy, water-closet, sink, or stable is drained, except it be water tight, shall be established or permitted in water-bearing strata or within 100 feet of any well, spring, or any other source of water used for drinking or culinary purposes.

SEC. 2. All privy vaults, reservoirs, or cesspools named in section 1 shall be cleaned and emptied of their contents at least once every year, before the 1st day of May, and shall be kept thoroughly deodorized and disinfected by adding to the contents thereof, at least once each month or oftener if necessary, calcium hypochlorite as follows: Take the calcium hypochlorite in powder form and sprinkle over the contents until the odor is abated, stirring contents if necessary. All privy vaults within the limits of any city or town shall not be less than 5 feet deep, and shall be constructed of brick set in cement, or of concrete construction, or two-inch tight lumber.

SEC. 3. No privy vault, water-closet, cesspool, sink, or stable drain shall open into any ditch, stream, or drain, except into the public sewers of the city or into disposal tanks equipped with aerated contact or trickling filters of ample area.

SEC. 4 (a) All sewer drains leading to outfalls or disposal plants shall be constructed of standard vitrified sewer pipe, or standard cement sewer pipe, with the joints properly set in cement in such a manner as to make them water tight; and no sewer drain or outlet from any sewage-disposal plant, except as hereinafter provided, shall empty into any lake, pond, creek, stream, or open field.

(b) Septic tanks or other disposal tanks shall be made of water-tight concrete or masonry construction. The filters of disposal plants, except in isolated locations in non-water-bearing strata, shall be installed in basins with water-tight bottom and side walls.

All disposal plants not discharging their effluent into an established sewer system shall be provided with aerated filter beds constructed of proper filtering materials and of sufficient capacity to render the effluent clear and nonputrescible at all seasons of the year; provided, that in the case of country residences and other isolated locations, the effluent from septic tanks or cesspools, or other types of sewage disposal, need not be subjected to filtration if such effluent can be discharged in sufficient isolation to prevent the creation of a nuisance or a menace to health; and, in any case, the pollution of any source of domestic or public water supply must be avoided.

(c) Nonputrescibility of effluents may be determined by means of the following:

1. The oxygen absorbed test.
2. The organic sulphur method.
3. The methylene blue test.
4. The method recommended by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal or by any of the standard chemical methods.

(d) If the effluent from the filters shall be discharged into any watercourse, open drain, stream or pond, or source of water supply, or upon any low land, where, in any manner, by drinking the effluent or water polluted by it or by contact with the same, either by man or beast, pathogenic germs may be transmitted, such effluent shall be sterilized by calcium hypochlorite or other suitable and safe chemical means.

(e) The discharge of the effluent from septic disposal plants or any other type of disposal plant into abandoned wells or into creviced strata, reaching water-bearing strata, from which domestic or public water supply is drawn, is absolutely prohibited.

(f) The different methods of irrigation and intermittent filtration are not intended to be excluded by the above requirements, but are also permitted and recommended where the conditions and surroundings will allow such methods of sewage disposal to be safely employed without creating a nuisance or menace to health, and without polluting any source of domestic or public water supply.

SEC. 5. (a) No offal, slops, or other wastes from any creamery, factory, shop, chicken house, slaughterhouse, tannery, hotel, boarding house, restaurant, laundry, meat market or private residence, or any other source, shall be thrown or deposited, except in accordance with properly provided garbage disposal, upon any lot or land, or into any ravine or open ditch, stream or pond, or upon any land adjoining which is subject to overflow.

(b) Any of the wastes above mentioned, not properly disposed of as garbage and common sewage, shall be disposed of by independent disposal plants, which latter provision shall particularly apply to creameries, slaughterhouses, factories, and shops.

SEC. 6. (a) All dead animals and all decomposed animal matter shall be deodorized and immediately removed to dump grounds provided by the city and there buried at least 3 feet under ground.

(b) The dump grounds so used must be so located and of such a character as not to affect or contaminate any domestic or public water supply, either by overflow or percolation.

SEC. 7. No slops, offal, garbage, manure or any other refuse shall at any time be deposited in any of the streets or alleys, or upon any lot in the city, except it be deposited in a regulation garbage box, as provided for in section 8 of this rule. All property owners shall be held responsible for the sanitary condition of the alley abutting on their premises.

SEC. 8. Each and all property owners within a city shall provide a suitable garbage box for each of his premises; said garbage box shall be so constructed as to be not more than 3 feet wide, 3 feet high and 5 feet long, and shall be made of tight-matched lumber or galvanized iron, and shall stand at least 9 inches from the ground and shall be fitted with an attached cover which shall be fly proof and shall be kept closed.

SEC. 9. All garbage boxes and their contents shall be kept thoroughly deodorized, and the contents of all such boxes shall be removed at least twice each week, and oftener if so ordered by the health officer.

SEC. 10. All cellars, caves, and outbuildings shall be cleansed and disinfected at least twice each year, and all cattle yards, chicken yards, barns or stables, when in use, shall be cleaned each day, and at all times kept free from all offensive odors.

SEC. 11. No privy vault shall be allowed upon any premises where there is a possible connection to the city sewer.

SEC. 12. A violation of any provision or section of this rule shall be deemed to be the commitment of a nuisance and shall subject the violator to the full penalty provided by statute and the ordinances of any city in Iowa having like regulations.

SEC. 13. It shall be the duty of the city marshal and other sanitary police officers to enforce these regulations, as herein set forth, under the supervision of the health officer.